

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

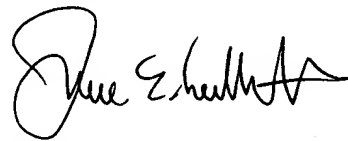
The Applicants acknowledge with appreciate the indication in the office action that claims 18, 19, 29 and 30 are allowed.

Allowable claims 17 and 21 are hereby re-written in independent form. Claims 16, 20 and 22-28 are now canceled.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



James E. Ledbetter
Registration No. 28,732

Date: May 24, 2005
JEL/DWW/att

Attorney Docket No. L9289.01138
STEVENS DAVIS, MILLER & MOSHER, L.L.P.
1615 L Street, N.W., Suite 850
P.O. Box 34387
Washington, D.C. 20043-4387
Telephone: (202) 785-0100
Facsimile: (202) 408-5200